



STRUGGLE★LA LUCHA

for Socialism / por el Socialismo



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RESIST U.S. WAR

Solidarity with people of Donbass!

By Melinda Butterfield

Remarks given by Melinda Butterfield, Struggle-La Lucha co-editor, at the “No to NATO, War and Racism” protest in the Bronx, New York, on Oct. 15.

I think it's important to bring up the struggle of the people who are directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine – that is, the people of the Donbass region and Ukrainian anti-fascists who have been forced into exile for the last eight-and-a-half years.

This summer, the people in the city of Donetsk, who have lived under Ukrainian bombs for more than eight years, have faced their toughest stretch ever surviving. The attacks have been constant and getting worse because of the infusion of more advanced U.S. and NATO weapons.

This war didn't start last February, when Russia intervened. It started with a coup against the elected Ukrainian government, sponsored by the United States, in 2014. We know how that works – we've seen it many times in Latin America and other places around the world.

The people in the eastern part of Ukraine said “No – we don't want to live under a regime that's filled with fascists. We don't want to live under a regime that answers to Washington and NATO.” And they had a big struggle.

Unfortunately, it was crushed in many parts of the country. But in Donetsk and Lugansk, in the Donbass region bordering Russia, they were able to declare independence, form a people's militia, and defend their independence for the last eight-and-a-half years.

When we talk about the struggle here, we use the slogan, “When people's rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back.” When trans rights, Black people's rights, abortion rights, immigrant rights are under attack, we say: Stand up and fight back. In Donbass, they stood up and fought back! Just like they are doing now in Haiti. And in the same way, the people there have been demonized and discounted.

Unfortunately, here in the United States, even in the anti-war movement and the left, there's very little consciousness about the Donbass people's struggle. But they are the ones on the front lines. They are the ones who have been taking the brunt of the Ukrainian attacks for almost a decade.

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Protest in the Bronx, N.Y., Oct. 15.

SLL photo: Melinda Butterfield

Pakistan's floods, China's heatwave

The climate crisis

By Scott Scheffer

The next international climate change conference will start on November 4 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Tens of millions are struggling to recover from extreme weather disasters that spanned the entire world in 2022. Just a little more than a month will have passed by the time the delegates gather since two of the worst-known weather catastrophes in human history happened in Pakistan and China.

Indeed, this will place more importance on the issue of climate finance at Sharm el-Sheikh, and the conference may become a flashpoint for a long-simmering international dispute. In 2009, at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Denmark, the developed industrialized countries were forced to commit to raising \$100 billion per year to assist the Global South in adapting to the effects of climate change.

They have not met the obligation. The website of the World Resources Institute reports that by October of 2021, “Three major economies — the United States, Australia, and Canada—provided less than half their share of the financial effort.”

A fraction of the funds handed over to the Pentagon each year would cover the U.S.'s commitment. But solidarity with

the Global South is not on the imperialist agenda.

While the Western media was reporting every detail of Queen Elizabeth's funeral for weeks on end, they woefully neglected news of two of the most destructive climate change-related events in history that occurred in Pakistan and China almost concurrently.

Pakistan floods

Southern Pakistan was hit by rains that lasted for weeks beginning in June, killing 1,500 or more people. More than one-third of the deaths were children. Crops were destroyed; at least a million homes were damaged or washed away completely.

Farmers usually welcome the monsoon season. However, this year, melting glaciers from rising global temperatures turned it into a super-monsoon catastrophe. Some 33 million people were affected, most of them tenant farmers. It will take six months for the water to recede so agriculture can become viable again. Estimates of recovery costs are now at about \$30 billion.

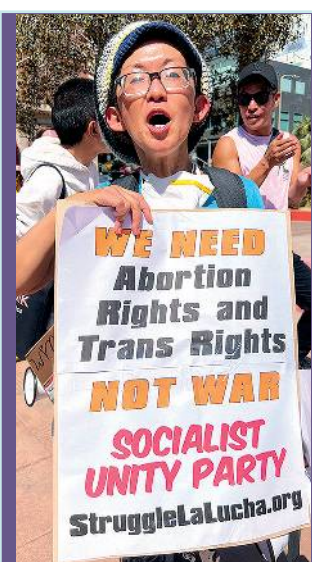
So far, international aid pledged is paltry compared to the need. The World Bank has pledged \$2 billion, and a few governments have pledged \$160 million via the United Nations.

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Open letter to LGBTQ+ activists:
Learn from Cuba!
End the blockade!

In addition to expanding the definition of the family beyond the hetero-normative conception, the Code also enshrines the rights of women, promotes gender equality, protects the role of grandparents and much more.



By Melinda Butterfield

In September, Serena Brennerman, a 16-year-old white trans woman, was found drowned in Salem, Oregon. Serena’s death was ruled a suicide by the police. But her friends and community don’t believe it. She was physically harassed by bigots in her school for a long time. Some of this violence was even captured on video. Whether Serena was murdered or took her own life, she was a victim of the trans panic being pushed by the rich and powerful and embraced by violent neo-Nazis and TERFs.

There’s no ambiguity about the murders of Semaj Billingslea, a Black trans man, who was shot to death in Jacksonville, Florida, on Sept. 21, or Mya Allen, a Black trans woman, who was murdered on Aug. 29 in Milwaukee. Nearly three dozen trans people have been killed so far this year, most of them people of color, and that’s only counting those who were correctly gendered and identified.

There’s a war against trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people in this country. It’s not new. But it has escalated to unprecedented heights in the last year and is spilling over into the whole LGBTQ2S community and those who support us.

Doctors and children’s hospitals are threatened with bombings. Neo-Nazis shut down drag events, often aided by local cops. Parents are threatened with prosecution for supporting their trans kids. We are increasingly threatened and accosted on the street, in stores, on public transportation, with slurs and threats.

What are the supposed friends of the LGBTQ+ community in Washington doing to stop this? Not a damn thing. They tell us to vote for them, the way they told women to vote for them before standing aside and letting abortion rights be stripped away. Meanwhile, alleged progressives like Hillary Clinton and the New York Times are spouting TERF rhetoric and dismissing trans rights.

The Biden administration and Congress have made it crystal clear that their priority is funding wars for empire on the other side of the world, not protecting the rights of people here.

It’s painful to watch. But we are not powerless.

On Sept. 25 something incredibly important happened just 90 miles from U.S. shores. After three years of democratic discussion and education at all levels of society, the people of socialist Cuba voted by a two-thirds margin for a new Code of Families. It enshrines in law the rights of queers, trans people and women in marriage and adoption. It changes the fundamental relationship between parents and children to one based on responsibilities and rights. It elevates chosen families to the same status as blood families. It embraces the rights that are being stripped away from us or that we never had at all.

In the U.S. media this was reduced to a vote for gay marriage. The Washington Post, Fox News, CNN and the rest don’t want people in this country to know what Cuba’s Code of Families is, or how it was achieved. They especially don’t want the trans and LGBTQ+ community to know, because people here might realize that we need to fight for what Cuba has: free health care,

including gender-affirming care, free education, including comprehensive sex education, the right to housing and work and dignity for all.

There’s an old liberal saying from the 1960s that those who make reform impossible make revolution inevitable. Today’s liberals don’t mention that much, because it’s a damning indictment of their own inaction and complacency.

Cuba made a revolution to get out from under the thumb of the U.S. empire. Washington has been punishing Cuba ever since. Cuba has been subject to a 60-year economic blockade on trade, medicine, food and more. Trump tightened the blockade and Biden has kept his hateful measures in place despite the pandemic and climate collapse.

One of the most hateful and destructive policies of the U.S. empire is using the rights of trans people, LGBTQ+ people and women as an excuse to attack other countries around the world in its wars for profit. It’s so obvious right now, as our own limited rights are being viciously stripped away.

We need to rely on ourselves, not corporate-sponsored politicians, to fight for our rights. We need to build alliances with other people here and around the world who are fighting for their rights and against the U.S. empire. Trans people who are on the front line of so much abuse and bigotry can play a leading role in building a revolutionary movement here. Just look at how trans and other queer workers at Starbucks and Amazon have become an incredible force for organizing unions.

Bigots say get back, we say fight back!
Protect trans kids! Unblock Cuba! 🇺🇸



Tsukuru Fors

SLL photo

Nat’l day of action to end violence and genocide on transgender people

By Struggle-La Lucha
Los Angeles bureau

On Saturday, October 1, we joined dozens in downtown Los Angeles to participate in the National Day of Action to End Violence and Genocide on Transgender People. Our Struggle-La Lucha newspaper, along with a leaflet, “Struggle for trans rights and socialism go hand in hand” by Melinda Butterfield, were well received. We asked Tsukuru Fors why he initiated this urgent protest.

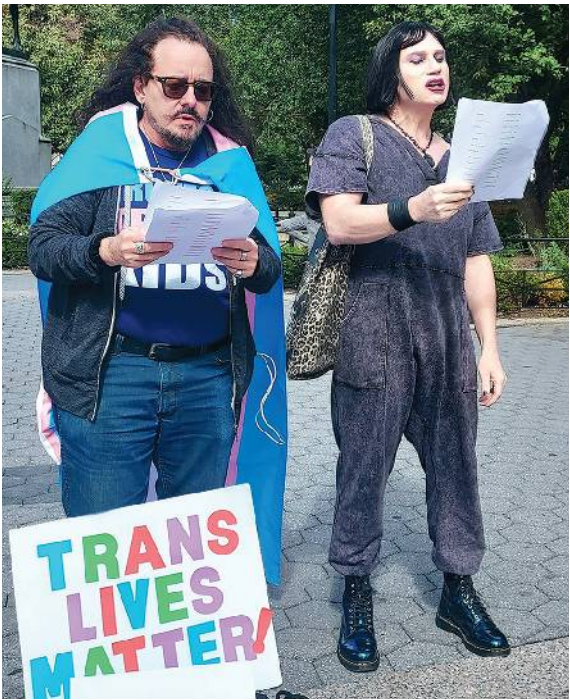
“It was initiated in response to the federal bill that Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives on August 19. The bill not only calls for a federal ban on gender-affirming care for trans youth but also seeks to ban federally funded gender-affirming care for all ages. It also bars universities and colleges from offering

instructions on gender-affirming care while prohibiting foreign doctors who perform gender-affirming care from obtaining visas to the United States.

“MTG’s bill wages war on transgender and other gender non-conforming people’s right to exist. As a community, we felt the bill warranted a response; we needed to tell our lawmakers loud and clear that transgender, other gender non-conforming people, and their allies do not stand for such an egregious violation of human rights.

“As the lead organizer of the nationwide action, I hoped the action would accomplish two things. The first is for transgender and gender non-conforming siblings to feel the presence of the community which encompasses transgender, gender non-conforming siblings, and our cisgender allies so we are empowered to fight these attacks on our

rights and personhood. The second is to bring communities together to demonstrate the intersectionality of our fight, while putting the unique issues that transgender and gender non-conforming people face front and center. This fight is not only for the rights of transgender and other gender non-conforming people but also for the rights of all peoples. Namely, we stood in solidarity with the movement for reproductive rights and labor rights. In Grand Park, DTLA, on Oct. 1, 2022, people of color, white folks, gay and straight, trans and cis people came together to collectively declare a war on our common enemy: the racist, capitalist, imperialist and patriarchal world order that oppresses us all. It was the day that made me feel assured that we are building a movement of the people; we are working to see the day when we will achieve liberation for all.” 🇺🇸



Lenny Zenith and Mia

SLL PHOTOS: MELINDA BUTTERFIELD

By Struggle-La Lucha
New York bureau

Trans activists, community members, and allies rallied at New York’s Union Square Park Oct. 8 for the National Day of Action to End Violence and Genocide on Transgender People. The event was rescheduled from Oct. 1 because of bad weather.

On a warm, sunny autumn afternoon, people held signs with slogans like “Protect trans kids,” “Trans liberation,” “Trans rights = human rights,” and “Nazis and TERFS say get back, we say fight back!” Passersby stopped to listen to the speakers and ask questions.

Rally organizers Mia and Lenny Zenith read out the names and brief, moving descriptions of the 31 known trans and gender nonconforming

people killed so far in 2022 – most of them people of color. They reminded the crowd that many hate crimes and killings of trans people go unacknowledged because of misgendering by police and the media.

Melinda Butterfield of Women In Struggle and the Socialist Unity Party read her “Open letter to LGBTQ+ activists” about the significance of Cuba’s revolutionary Code of Fam-

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Did Marco Rubio bite off more than he can chew?

By Cheryl LaBash

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio may have overstepped himself. He must have considered it a midterm election campaign stunt to rile up the rabid anti-Cuba electors in his state or to impress his benefactors.

On August 5, Rubio publicly announced from a senatorial bully pulpit his letter to the FBI accusing illegalities and requesting an investigation of the high school teacher, U.S. military veteran, and Cuban American Carlos Lazo and the remarkable movement that has grown around him appropriately named Puentes de Amor, Bridges of Love.

Let's remember Lazo's alleged crime is bringing powdered milk and pediatric liver transplant medicine for Cuban children. In so doing, the intentional harm done to Cuban families by the U.S. extraterritorial blockade is brought into plain view. One might think that Rubio, instead of multiplying his hate against Cuba,

would be paying a little more attention to his Floridian constituents who remain without water and electricity after the devastation they are suffering from Hurricane Ian.

On Oct. 11, the Cuban solidarity group and fourteen individuals responded with force by issuing a letter to the U.S. Senate Ethics Committee requesting an investigation of Rubio's defamation campaign. Most are longtime Florida residents and Rubio's constituents.

The letter cites the Senate Ethics Manual, which "condemns 'improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate.' ...

"Senator Rubio's conduct harkens back to the dark era of McCarthyism, where the chambers of the Senate were used by its members to target, harass, defame, silence, persecute and imprison citizens whose political and policy views differed from Senators like Joseph McCarthy or Marco Rubio."

Rubio is a self-righteous advo-



Grassroots members of Puentes de Amor say Rubio is targeting and harassing them because they promote diplomacy and peaceful relations between the United States and Cuba.

cate for starving the Cuban people into relinquishing their sovereignty through an economic war. However, support for this opinion is dwindling in the Cuban-American community in Florida and throughout the U.S. For more than two years, Puentes de

Amor has conducted monthly, public, bike and car caravans in Miami, calling for the U.S. blockade on Cuba to end.

These caravans began after Lazo and others rode bikes from Washington State to Washington, D.C., carrying this same message in 2020, inspiring other cities to do it as well. Rubio is no longer the unchallenged spokesperson for Cubans living in the U.S. Many who hid their disagreement out of fear for the Miami terror campaigns of the past are no longer afraid. [R]

The climate crisis

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A recent study by economist Utsa Patnaik, published by Columbia University Press, shows that the narrative that British colonization of India was at a cost to the empire turns the truth on its head. Using two centuries of data, Patnaik calculated that Britain robbed India of \$45 trillion between 1765 and 1938. Pakistan was part of India until 1947.

China heatwave

Around the same time as the floods in Pakistan, a heatwave hit China that lasted 70 days. Rivers dried up, hydroelectric power plants stopped working, factories closed, and infrastructure crumbled under the intense heat. As the heatwave continued, water became scarce.

During what the Chinese people know as the "century of humiliation" between 1839 and 1949 when the country was pillaged by Western and Japanese imperialism, weather statistics were not kept. China's climate record-keeping system only began in 1961 as socialist planning was getting the country back on its feet. This year's heatwave was the worst in the six decades since then. Many scientists say it may be the worst ever recorded anywhere on the globe, not just in terms of its intensity but also due to its duration.

China has invested heavily in the mitigation of the effects of climate change. While not always in sync

with the goals set at the international conferences where the U.S. and other imperialist delegates tried to obligate countries of the Global South equally with rich imperialist countries, President Xi Jinping has pledged that China would be carbon neutral by 2060. While still forced to rely heavily on coal for power generation and manufacturing, they have made strides in other ways of lowering their "carbon footprint" and are world leaders in impressive innovation.

China's focus on producing solar panels and wind power components has driven down the price on the world market, making renewables more viable for the entire world. The world's largest Pumped-Hydro Facility, built by state-owned State Grid Corporation, supplies energy to Beijing and other areas. This technology uses excess solar energy to pump water to a higher elevation when the sun is out. Then when the power demand exceeds the ability of solar panels to provide enough, water is released to run generators on the way back down. China plans to increase its capacity by four times by 2025.

Another state-owned company is in the research and development stage of positioning solar panels 22,000 miles above the earth because solar energy on the ground is only 20% efficient compared to 98% in space. They can get the equipment up, and the next challenge is the transportation of the energy back to

the ground. The payoff on the project is likely in the distant future, but it speaks volumes about the determination of the Chinese leadership.

These are examples of working toward mitigation – slowing and then stopping the emissions of CO2, methane and other greenhouse gases, an important contribution to the global effort.

Adaptation is the other half of dealing with climate change for every nation in the world. Protecting one's country from the effects of extreme weather is a more difficult and immediate challenge. Even though China is a world leader in mitigating climate change, rising global temperatures can cause crises in any country. Working hard and investing in mitigation won't protect China from the inevitable extreme weather from climate change. Conversely, the emissions from the use of coal that China is, to a large extent, still forced to rely on are not what brought about the terrible heatwave of 2022.

To affix blame for every climate change disaster, look to the United States and Britain, which historically contributed most of the greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. Even today, on a per capita basis, the U.S. and Britain are the first and second greatest emitters of greenhouse gasses. But the crisis for the Global South is the result of colonial subjugation, imperialist warfare and other forms of dominance.

At the very least, the imperialist countries must be forced to meet the agreed-on obligations to help the Global South with adaptation. As delegates from the Global South prepare to travel to Sharm el-Sheikh in November to make their case, progressive movement activists worldwide, especially in the U.S., should be planning for an all-out campaign of solidarity. The struggle to succeed against climate change is an anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist struggle. Capitalism and imperialism must be abolished, root and branch, to save the planet! [R]

Resist U.S. war

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It is imperative that we extend our solidarity to them, build bridges of unity with them, with our struggles, our communities and other liberation struggles from Palestine to Haiti to Puerto Rico.

There's another development that could confuse the movement here, and we've got to be alert to it. That is the referendum held at the end of September in Donetsk, Lugansk and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions to join the Russian Federation.

The reason that happened is not because Russia was trying to make a land grab against Ukraine. It's something Russia has resisted for the last eight years, even as a movement to join Russia was building in those areas. It was an emergency measure of last resort.

The people don't want to live under Ukrainian bombs and fascists anymore. Now they have the constitutional protection of the Russian Federation, which gives Russia more power to protect them with their nuclear deterrent and other measures.

The way the referendum is being presented here is just the U.S. projecting its land-grabbing imperialist policies onto Russia. It discounts the context and the wishes of the people there. It's against self-determination. So it's important that we not get confused about this or let it turn into another thing to divide and shut down the anti-war movement, like what happened last February.

Solidarity with the people of Donbass! Let's build a fighting anti-war movement. Let's fight for what we need here at home, and take back that \$70 billion the U.S. has committed so far this year for war in Ukraine. [R]

anti-trans violence

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lies and its lessons for people fighting for equality in the U.S.

Both presentations spurred lively discussions about anti-trans violence, the attacks on gender-affirming health care, Cuba's advances for queer people, and the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine.

Organizers are planning an action to mark Trans Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20.

The National Day of Action was initiated by the Trans Radical Activist Network. Events were held Oct. 1 in about 20 cities, including Los Angeles, Richmond, Virginia, Houston, Seattle, Springfield, Illinois, and San Diego.

Supporters of the Socialist Unity Party and Workers World Party were among the participants in the New York event. [R]



Alabama prisoners strike against racism and unlivable conditions

By Lev Koufax

On Sept. 26, thousands of prisoners across the state of Alabama declared a general strike in the 13 state prisons. Prisoners refused to work until the Alabama Department of Corrections met several demands. These demands were also delivered to Alabama Governor Kay Ivey and the state legislature. While work has resumed at some facilities, as of Oct. 3, five facilities averaging 7,000 prisoners each were still under work stoppages.

Alabama is one of seven states that does not pay prisoners wages for their work. The state has a reputation for brutal and dangerous state prisons. Prisoners have complained for decades about savage guards, inadequate food and severe overcrowding.

In particular, the Alabama Black Community has suffered from the high level of incarceration and the subsequent treatment of those incarcerated individuals. While 28% of Alabama’s population is Black, 54% of those in prison are Black.

This strike, organized entirely by the prisoners themselves, was built for years as the COVID-19 pandemic worsened conditions. Any dissent against the lack of humane treatment was met with beatings, solitary confinement and delay of release dates.



The ‘Break Every Chain’ rally outside the Alabama Department of Corrections Headquarters in Montgomery, Sept. 26.

The U.S. prison system is one of the most racist, exploitative, and inhumane institutions in a country riddled with them. The federal government fuels mass incarceration with its war on drugs and laws that allow for expansive prosecution. The states follow suit. These policies are a form of warfare on the Black community and another method by which the capitalist system squeezes every ounce out of every worker.

State governments save millions staffing laundry rooms, maintenance departments, and kitchens with unpaid prison labor. Those same state governments make millions from prisoner-created prod-

ucts. Alabama has a particularly developed correctional industry. Their expansive website offers everything from \$220 conference chairs to custom millwork valued at tens of thousands of dollars – all made by unpaid prisoners, the same unpaid prisoners who are denied adequate meals on a daily basis and are often victim to summer air conditioning shut-offs.

For all the above-stated reasons, the prisoners are determined not to end their strike until their demands are met. These demands include: the establishment of a mandatory parole criteria; eliminating life without parole sentences; the creation of a

statewide conviction integrity unit; ensuring eligible persons receive a “good time” incentive; and the repeal of Alabama’s Habitual Offender Act, which requires stricter punishment for prior offenders.

These demands were carefully aimed at exposing Alabama’s violation of the Constitution’s 8th Amendment, forbidding the government from using torture as well as excessive fines and bail to punish people who have broken the law. Further, if implemented, these proposals would significantly relieve the overcrowding issues in Alabama prisons. As of April of this year, Alabama prisons were at 155% capacity, housing 18,773 prisoners in facilities designed for roughly 12,000.

Yet, right-wing Governor Kay Ivey dismissed the demands as “unreasonable.” It should be noted that soon after she took office, Ivey signed a law protecting all Confederate monuments in Alabama.

The U.S. prison system is as cruel as it is racist. Alabama demonstrates this reality more than most states. Stand with the Alabama prisoners on strike against cruelty and racism. We have to be in solidarity as a movement and as a class with those who fight against racist mass incarceration and modern slavery.

Tear down the walls! Justice for Alabama prisoners now! Solidarity with all the strikers! [Solidarity symbol]

A Nobel Prize in foreclosures

By Stephen Millies

Over eight million families had their dwellings foreclosed by U.S. financial institutions from 2006 to 2016. That means at least 30 million people were kicked out of their homes by the bankers. Millions more were evicted.

In eight of those years, Ben Bernanke was chair of the Federal Reserve, the central bank of the United States. During his tenure from 2006 to 2014, some 6,665,045 families lost their homes.

While Bernanke refused to help these families, he was bailing out the billionaires. The head of the Fed pumped trillions into banks and other corporations that were “too big to fail.”

Citibank got \$517 billion. General Electric — which was making more money by loan sharking than by making light bulbs and locomotives — received \$140 billion.

So why was Bernanke awarded the 2022 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences along with Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig?

Capitalists like to give awards to each other as well as to their trusted servants like Bernanke. The Economics prize was first awarded in 1969, 68 years after the other Nobel prizes.

It’s officially called the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The

Sveriges Riksbank is the Swedish central bank.

So the central banker Ben Bernanke got a prize from another central bank. An earlier recipient was Milton Friedman, who wanted to get rid of Social Security and advised Chile’s brutal dictator Augusto Pinochet.

Not all of the original Nobel Prizes should have been awarded, either. The 1949 prize in medicine or physiology was awarded to Antonio Egas Moniz for promoting lobotomies, which deliberately damaged people’s brains.

Dr. Martin Luther King certainly deserved his Nobel Peace Prize.

President Teddy Roosevelt, who helped give Korea to the Japanese Empire in the Treaty of Portsmouth that ended the Russo-Japanese war, did not.

After all, the Nobel Peace Prize was named after Alfred Nobel, a Swedish industrialist who developed dynamite and other more powerful explosives. The Nobel family also had extensive financial holdings in the Czarist Empire, including a slice of the oil fields in Baku.

That’s why the famous Russian writer Leo Tolstoy, who criticized czarist rule, never received the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Today the Ukrainian regime and its fascist gangs are tearing down statues of Tolstoy and the Black poet Alexander Pushkin.



The enchanter’s wand

Bernanke and the other two economists were given the prize this year for their study of banking.

In a 1983 paper, Bernanke pointed out that the thousands of bank failures prolonged the Great Depression of the 1930s. This differed from the prevailing dogma of monetary crank Milton Friedman who claimed it was simply the result of the money supply being strangled.

The attitude of billionaires at the time was that it was a golden opportunity to gobble up competitors. According to former President Herbert Hoover’s memoirs, Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon’s attitude was to “liquidate labor, liquidate stocks, liquidate the farmers.”

Billionaire Mellon refused to lend \$1 million to save the Bank of Pittsburgh in 1932. As a result 17,000 depositors lost everything. Today’s Bank of New York Mellon has \$452 billion in assets. Mellon lost nothing.

Ben Bernanke is an educated person. Yet his attitude towards banks is naive.

In that 1983 paper, Bernanke wrote that “the real service performed by the banking system is the differentiation between good and bad borrowers.”

That doesn’t explain why there isn’t any money for affordable housing while Donald Trump and other real estate sharks get billions for luxury condos.

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Thousands rally: ‘Free Assange!’

By Struggle-La Lucha
Baltimore bureau

Hundreds rallied outside the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 8 to protest the incarceration and extradition of Julian Assange. Assange is currently in the middle of his third year of confinement in London’s Belmarsh prison, serving most of that time in solitary isolation.

Protests supporting freedom for Assange were held around the world. In London, 7,000 protesters linked hands to surround the Parliament building, demanding that Britain not extradite Assange to the United States. Protests also occurred in several other U.S. cities.

Supporters of Assange in Washington marched around the DOJ complex. They symbolically encircled the complex with a large yellow ribbon with “Free Assange” written on it. Chants of “Free Assange,” “No extradition,” and “Jail John Bolton” could be heard for two city blocks as the marchers slowly made their

way around the DOJ, escorted by D.C. police and accompanied by multiple musicians playing drums and guitars.

Many members of the independent media attended to cover the march and the subsequent rally that featured independent political activists from across the political spectrum.

People’s Power Assembly founding member Rev. Annie Chambers was a featured speaker at the rally. Chambers brought up the many other political prisoners of the United States, including her Black Panther brothers and sisters, and how this sort of isolation is used as a form of torture.

At first, the British Magistrate blocked Assange’s extradition from Britain in January 2021. However, the British High Court later overturned that decision when the U.S. government appealed.

Assange will face espionage charges if he is extradited to the U.S. Assange is being sought by the U.S. for publishing documents that revealed U.S. war crimes and human rights atrocities.

According to Assange’s defense, “The politically motivated charges represent an unprecedented attack on press freedom and the public’s right to know – seeking to criminalize basic journalistic activity.”

If convicted, Julian Assange faces a sentence of 175 years, likely to be spent in extreme isolation.

Recently Assange has tested positive for COVID-19. While in Belmarsh prison, Assange’s mental and physical health has greatly deteriorated. With this new diagnosis of COVID-19 and Assange’s chronic lung disease, supporters and his family are again urging the courts to release him immediately. [P]

Washington, D.C., Oct. 8.

SLL PHOTO



Nobel Prize in foreclosures

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During the so-called Great Recession, the Federal Reserve poured trillions into financial institutions in what was called “quantitative easing.” This was just a fancy name for creating more government debt.

Karl Marx described the peculiar role of national debt in “Capital”:

“As with the stroke of an enchanter’s wand, it endows barren money with the power of breeding and thus turns it into capital, without the necessity of its exposing itself to the troubles and risks inseparable from its employment in industry or even in usury.”

The capitalist media hail Bernanke for preventing the massive bank failures that happened in the 1930s. Despite the deluge of loans to banks and insurance companies, these outfits were slow to resume lending. This prolonged the economic crisis that started in 2007.

Banks rule, wrote Lenin

Lenin, the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution, knew the role of banks much better than Bernanke. In “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” Lenin described how capitalist society is run by a dictatorship of the big banks.

“The banks grow from modest middlemen into powerful monopolies having at their command almost the whole of the money capital of all the capitalists and small businessmen and also the larger part of the means of production and sources of raw materials in any one country and in a number of countries,” wrote Lenin. “This transformation of numerous modest middlemen into a handful of monopolists is one of the fundamental processes in the growth of capitalism into capitalist imperialism.”

Although it’s called a “prize in economic sciences,” there’s not much science in modern capitalist

economics. David Ricardo, who died 200 years ago, was the last pro-capitalist economist who sought to honestly investigate capitalism.

Ricardo popularized a version of the labor theory of value that points out that only workers can produce profits. This fact is hated by capitalists.

The railroad monopolies even told the Presidential Emergency Board in August that “capital investment and risk are the reasons for their profits, not any contributions from labor.” Tell that to the railroaders who are injured on the job.

Capitalist economists since Ricardo are apologists for a system that inevitably leads to war and hunger. Because they don’t know how capitalism works, even some very bright people can screw up big time.

That’s what happened in 1998 to the mathematicians at Long-Term Capital Management who made risky bets. The Federal Reserve bailed them out with \$3.5 billion.

These math whizzes might as well have made astrology tables.

It was Karl Marx who investigated the workings of the capitalist system and how it developed. He pointed out that capitalism’s fundamental contradiction was that the socialized production by millions of workers was shackled to private ownership by a few.

Because there’s no overall economic plan, production always outstrips consumption despite the needs of billions of people. Eventually, too many things or services are produced than can be sold at a profit.

The result has been a capitalist economic crisis every decade or so since 1825. That’s a good reason to overthrow capitalism by a socialist revolution.

In order to struggle, the teachings of Karl Marx will be absorbed by millions of poor and working people. They will understand capitalism better than all the Bernankes. [P]

No U.S. intervention in Haiti!



SLL PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

March in Brooklyn, New York’s Haitian community on Oct. 17 to protest plans to invade Haiti.

By Stephen Millies

More than a hundred people marched through the heart of Brooklyn, New York’s Haitian community, on Oct. 17 to protest plans to invade Haiti. Onlookers in cars honked their horns and raised fists in support.

Fanmi Lavalas New York and Komokoda called the demonstration. “Our people in Haiti are fighting and dying to return to the free & sovereign country our ancestors defeated their white enslavers to create in 1804,” said the call for the demonstration. “We will not let them fight alone.”

Carrying signs with pictures of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who defeated Napoleon’s troops, Haitians and their supporters marched down Nostrand Avenue to Flatbush Avenue, also known as “the Junction.”

U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken is maneuvering to send troops under the guise of the United Nations.

Such a Pentagon intervention would be in the footsteps of the U.S.

occupation of Haiti from 1915 to 1934. U.S. Marines killed thousands of Haitians.

Among them was Charlemagne Peralte, the Haitian national hero leading the resistance against the occupation. He was assassinated on Nov. 1, 1919, by Marine Sgt. Herman Hanneken, who was wearing Black-face.

Hanneken was given the congressional Medal of Honor for this war crime and was eventually made a brigadier general.

Protesters gathered at Eastern Parkway and Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, which is named after John van Nostrand, an owner of enslaved Africans. U.S. and European capitalists have never forgiven Haitians for overthrowing their slave masters.

In revenge, the wealthy and powerful have been attacking Haiti for 230 years and making it poor. As one sign read, “France owes Haiti \$29 billion plus reparations.”

Wall Street owes billions, too. U.S. hands off Haiti! [P]

Imperialist crimes and U.S.-led NATO war in Ukraine

Following is a talk by John Parker, Socialist Unity Party / Partido de Socialismo Unido, to the International Symposium of the Anti-Imperialist Front in Athens, Greece, on Oct. 8.

By John Parker

The recent pronouncement by Zelensky to refuse negotiations with Russia after calling on NATO to launch a preemptive nuclear strike against Russia makes it clear that the U.S. is aggressively driving the world towards World War III, and like its war crimes committed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki prove, it has no care about the killing of children and other civilians.

Instead of representing the people most hurt by this U.S.-led NATO war and bombing of desperately needed oil supplies, the puppets of U.S. imperialism in Europe continue to sacrifice working and poor people to remain in good favor with U.S. imperialism.

Instead of heeding the needs of the people in the U.S., drowning in price increases and suffering poverty and homelessness, President Biden spends \$70 billion to prop up a fascist regime in Ukraine that inspires fascist white supremacists to kill Black people in supermarkets and Muslims praying in Mosques.

Instead of helping to fight global warming and new strains of the COVID virus, the two parties of the ruling class in the U.S. — the Dem-

ocrats and Republicans — push us closer to a nuclear holocaust by provoking Russia in Ukraine and China in Taiwan.

Instead of fighting growing poverty in the world, the U.S. heaps more sanctions upon any country that dares to fight for its sovereignty and independence from U.S. imperialism, thus exacerbating the poverty of children and food insecurity. It is estimated that the freezing of Afghanistan’s assets by the U.S. will cause 1 million children to starve to death. And, while Cuba suffers from a hurricane disaster, instead of real assistance, the U.S. maintains its crippling and illegal economic sanctions against it.

These international war crimes by the U.S. are assisted by Western corporate media, which legitimizes and disseminates information that serves to justify U.S. imperialist wars. The New York Times, for example, which is considered the newspaper of record and influences world news, has been used from 1915 to the present to drive the U.S. into war: against Germany in World War I, with the Lusitania incident; to 1964 in the Gulf of Tonkin incident, to push war against Vietnam; to the lies about WMDs to push war in Iraq and kill 500,000 children; to Libya, Syria and now Ukraine — us-

ing unverified information directly from neo-Nazi regiments leading the Ukrainian army.

I, for example, recently came back from Lugansk. And what I witnessed and the testimony I received from the people there made it crystal clear that the Ukrainian military is not only targeting the civilian population but is led by Nazis. Yet, this view is never presented in the corporate media.

It is of utmost importance for the international community to come together in providing the truth to the world and helping to build news sources that can be trusted to counter U.S.-led NATO’s war drives, like the current lies about the referendum in the Donbass region that was far more democratic and inclusive than the elections held in the U.S.

This hypocrisy is especially acute in the U.S., where now millions of Black and Brown voters are being denied their right to vote. In addition, exclusionary immigration policies, along with the greatest number of incarcerated people in the world, many of whom are unable to vote, and an electoral college system that denies the popular vote prove the undemocratic nature of U.S. elections and democracy in general.

Last month the openly Nazi Azov Battalion representatives met with politicians in Washington and at community centers here in the U.S., and no condemnation of those politicians was heard, showing the weak state of the anti-war and anti-imperialist movements in the U.S.

The growth of fascism and the push towards World War III by NATO and its puppets must be stopped.

Now more than ever, it is of utmost importance that international anti-imperialist organizations come together in international solidarity with unified strategies to fight against NATO wars. To do this, we must also build a unified working-class movement in our own countries by highlighting how these wars deny our right to health care, housing, and economic security and further expose how the contradictions of imperialist economic policies gravitate towards fascism, war and poverty.

We must expose the fact that our international working class, the class that produces the wealth of nations and is thus capable of tremendous power — if united can stop this current backsliding of history and defeat NATO and its drive towards human destruction. 📌



Hands off Donbass, Zaporozhye and Kherson:

By Melinda Butterfield

On Sept. 30, Russian President Vladimir Putin, the leaders of the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics, and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions officially signed a treaty of accession uniting these areas with the Russian Federation.

The accession of these regions, formerly part of Ukraine, came after a five-day referendum held from Sept. 23-27, in which the vast majority of voters who participated said “yes” to joining the Russian Federation: 98.72% in Donetsk, 97.87% in Lugansk, 97.80% in Zaporozhye and 96.75% in Kherson, reported teleSUR. Refugees from these regions now living in Russia also voted.

The Ukrainian government called on its supporters to boycott the vote.

“We will definitely rebuild destroyed cities and towns, houses, schools, hospitals, theaters and museums” in these regions, Putin said. “We will restore and develop industrial enterprises, factories, infrastructure, social and pension systems, health care, and education.

“We call on the Kiev regime to immediately cease fire, all hostilities, to stop the war that it had unleashed back in 2014, and to return to the negotiating table.”

In the U.S. and other NATO countries, the referendum was condemned and dismissed as an act of annexation by Russia against Ukraine. They described the 2014 Crimean referen-

dum, with over 95% supporting joining Russia, the same way.

Biden’s ‘Armageddon’ threat

Washington seized on this development to call for even more weapons and money for the regime in Kiev — above and beyond the \$70 billion already committed by the U.S. to war in Ukraine so far this year.

At a big-money Democratic Party fundraising event on Oct. 7, U.S. President Joe Biden ramped up the threats, saying the danger of “nuclear Armageddon” was greater than at any time since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. Biden claimed that Russia’s president threatened to use “tactical nuclear weapons or biological or chemical weapons.” His remarks were widely reported.

In fact, Putin has not threatened those things. What Moscow officials have said is that the accession of the four regions extends the constitutional protections of the Russian Federation to these areas, including the country’s nuclear deterrent.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, however, took Biden’s remarks as an opportune moment to call on NATO to launch “preemptive strikes” on Russia. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitri Peskov described it as “a call to start a world war.”

Lest Biden’s and Zelensky’s statements be taken for empty posturing, the U.S. attacked the Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea Sept. 27, while the Security Service of

Ukraine carried out a terror attack on the Kerch Strait Bridge connecting Crimea and the Russian mainland on Oct. 8.

Self-determination

Western governments claim that the referendum was illegitimate, explaining it as an imperial land grab by Russia. These claims are stripped of context or respect for the desires and concerns of the residents of these regions.

Any election held under wartime conditions naturally faces difficulties and limitations. For example, in Donetsk, the capital of the Donetsk People’s Republic, residents voted under fire from daily Ukrainian artillery attacks and with the threat of miniature land mines scattered across the city by Kiev’s troops.

But people refused to be intimidated; there was no doubt that they would vote in favor of joining the Russian Federation, which has provided invaluable humanitarian aid and military support during Ukraine’s 8-year war against the Donbass mining region.

International election observers came on short notice, representing countries and movements around the world, and gave the thumbs-up to the conduct of the referendum. Invitations were extended to the official election commissions from 100 countries, though few of these bodies were willing to risk Washington’s wrath.

In the DPR alone, 133 observers from 28 countries worked during the five days of the referendum. On the final day of voting, observers from Britain, Germany, Syria, Togo, Spain, Colombia, South Africa, Ghana, Serbia, India, Iceland, and Latvia worked at polling stations in the cities of Donetsk and Makeyevka, Donetsk News Agency reported.

Observers came from places like Venezuela — a country whose election results have been frequently disregarded by the U.S. and NATO, despite a sterling record of election conduct ratified by international observers, including U.S. progressives.

Emergency measure

U.S. officials and media outlets argue that annexing Ukrainian territory was Russia’s goal all along. But this flies in the face of the facts. Every action Russia has taken since 2014 has been aimed at preventing this scenario.

Moscow insisted on upholding the 2015 Minsk II agreements brokered by France and Germany, which provided a pathway for Donetsk and Lugansk to rejoin Ukraine with more autonomy. It did so even after it became painfully clear that Ukraine (under Washington’s orders) would never respect or live up to its side of the agreement.

In fact, a movement to join the Russian Federation had been

Continued on page 7

U.S. launches ‘practice’ nuclear bombing of Europe

By Gary Wilson

On Oct. 17, NATO aircraft and personnel started a “practice” nuclear strike mission in Europe, code-named Steadfast Noon. Aircraft armed with “disabled” U.S.-made B61 tactical nuclear bombs — similar to the roughly 150 B61 nukes the U.S. currently has on bases in five European countries — are on a training mission to practice dropping these bombs over Europe. At the same time, President Joe Biden talks of a nuclear “Armageddon.”

On Oct. 6, Biden warned of a nuclear Armageddon, saying the risk of nuclear war is the greatest since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. NATO’s B61 nuclear bombs are 20 times more powerful than the atom bombs the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In 1990 during the first U.S. invasion of Iraq, Gen. Colin Powell recalls in his memoir, he was ordered to draw up plans for a nuclear strike to “destroy a division of the Iraqi Republican Guard.” Dick Cheney, who was Secretary of Defense at that time, dismissed Powell’s expression of concern about a possible use of tactical nuclear weapons, saying the plan was never implemented.

The U.S. is the only country to use or even threaten to use nuclear weapons in warfare.

What Putin said

The reports that Vladimir Putin made nuclear threats are deliber-

ate distortions and fear-mongering propaganda.

What President Putin said was in response to threats from Western politicians that they could use nuclear weapons against Russia:

“To the statements made by some high-ranking representatives of the leading NATO countries on the possibility and admissibility of using weapons of mass destruction — nuclear weapons — against Russia.

“In the event of a threat to the territorial integrity of our country and to defend Russia and our people, we will certainly make use of all weapon systems available to us. This is not a bluff. [To] those who are using nuclear blackmail against us.”

This is not a threat of a nuclear first strike and makes it clear that it is a response to a threatened strike on Russia.



Above, F-16 fighter jets take part in the NATO Air Shielding exercise near the airbase in Lask, Poland, on Oct. 12, 2022. NATO’s ‘practice’ nuclear bombing mission, called Steadfast Noon, is from Oct. 17 to Oct. 30, 2022.

Nuclear force ‘undergirds’ U.S. priorities

On Oct. 14, Biden released a National Security Strategy that directly targets China and Russia with “integrated deterrence.” That is an expanded military integrated across the U.S. economy — “Integration across domains ... military (land, air, maritime, cyber, and space) and non-military (economic, technological, and information).”

“Our military power continues to grow,” the document says. The goal is to “modernize and strengthen our military so it is equipped for the era of strategic competition.”

The document declares: “We will modernize the [U.S. military] to be lethal, resilient, sustainable, survivable, agile and responsive, prioritizing operational concepts and updated warfighting capabilities. The war in Ukraine highlights the criticality

of a vibrant Defense Industrial Base for the United States. ... An effective nuclear force undergirds our defense priorities.”

For socialist workers and progressives to focus on a so-called nuclear threat from Russia is to be manipulated by the capitalist media. U.S. finance capital is based on an empire of oil and other resources. U.S. finance capital is totally committed to a military and political drive for global dominance.

The existence of a recession with increasing inflation is now openly discussed in the capitalist media. The hope of the military is that the proxy war in Ukraine against Russia and the massive maneuvers against China will divert the oncoming economic crisis and set in motion a new upward phase in the capitalist cycle of development. But this ignores the entire history of wars and capitalist development.

The recession and inflation must be answered with organized resistance. Tens of thousands are marching in the streets of France in response to the “cost-of-living” crisis, demanding higher wages and an emergency freeze on the prices of groceries, rent and energy. France’s largest labor unions called for a one-day general strike on Oct. 17.

In Britain, Prime Minister Liz Truss’s proposed budget, which was a massive tax-cut giveaway to the rich, was met with mass protests over rising energy and living costs. Truss’s budget proposal has been stopped. [R]

Respect the referendum!

Continued from page 6

building in Donbass and eastern Ukraine since 2014, particularly after Ukraine launched its “Anti-Terrorist Operation” against the residents of Donetsk and Lugansk. Russian officials discouraged this, often to the frustration of residents living under the wartime conditions imposed by Kiev.

Moreover, the accession of these war-torn areas at this time is a huge burden to the Russian Federation. U.S. and Western economic sanctions are being continuously tightened, and more resources must be spent defending the country from NATO. The need to institute a partial draft to strengthen the Special Military Operation further hampers Russia’s economy by removing people from the workforce.

The decision to hold the September referendums was an emergency measure of last resort — just like the Russian military intervention in February — to prevent a NATO-armed genocide against the people of the region.

Movement skeptics in the West should ask themselves: Why would the majority Russian-speaking population and other national minorities choose to remain under a Ukrainian regime that every worker understands to be in the pocket of Washington and the European imperialists? One that bans the use of their languages and their political parties?

Why would residents of Donbass choose to stay in Ukraine when the “patriots” that fill the ranks of Kiev’s neo-Nazi military battalions speak of them as subhumans to be driven from their homes, at best, or slaughtered? When anti-fascists and other political opponents of the Kiev authorities have been killed, jailed, or forced into exile since 2014?

Language portraying residents of Donbass and Russia as subhuman “savages” has now entered the mainstream of Western media, especially in op-eds and think-pieces geared to prepare the population for open war against Russia.

Support Donbass resistance

Left and anti-war movements in the U.S. will not be able to mount an effective resistance to the growing crisis and the threat of world war until they grapple with a real understanding of the dynamics of the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine.

There was an outcry over the reported deaths of 12 civilians after massive Russian missile strikes on military and infrastructure targets in Western Ukraine Oct. 10. The strikes came in response to the Ukrainian terror attack on the Kerch Strait Bridge.

Any civilian death in wartime is tragic. But no mention was made of the fact that this many people are routinely killed on any given day by Ukrainian attacks on civilian targets in Donbass — and that this has



PHOTOS: DONETSK NEWS AGENCY

Donetsk residents at a polling station on the final day of the referendum on joining the Russian Federation, Sept. 27. “Despite permanent cannon fire, the atmosphere at voting stations is festive with music playing and offers of tea and sweetmeats to visitors,” Donetsk News Agency reported.

been going on for nearly a decade.

Struggle-La Lucha has long argued that the anti-fascist liberation struggle of the Donbass people, through its deep historical resonance with the workers of Russia and other former Soviet countries, has compelled Russia’s government to aid their resistance.

The official Western narrative, which unfortunately is shared by much of the U.S. left, stands reality on its head, depicting the people of Donbass as pawns of Russia, or simply beneath notice.

With three decades of growth of the NATO war alliance, the U.S. government has been tightening a noose around Russia since the ear-

ly 1990s. The Donbass resistance since 2014 has helped to push the capitalist regime in Moscow to take measures for the survival of Russia’s sovereignty after decades of relying on diplomatic maneuvers and attempts to come to an understanding with the bandits in Washington and Western Europe.

But U.S. imperialism has no interest in compromises or understandings with Russia, just as it has worked tirelessly to prevent Ukraine from negotiating an end to the current conflict. It wants to dismantle and dominate the Russian Federation as a stepping stone to dismembering the People’s Republic of China. [R]

La visita de Biden

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Buenos días audiencia,
Hace unos días, el presidente Biden visitó a Puerto Rico para recordarnos, si acaso lo habíamos olvidado, que seguimos siendo una colonia.
Lo que sus publicistas describieron como una visita para ver los daños ocasionados por el huracán Fiona y auscultar el sentir del pueblo, fue realmente una burda farsa para ganar los votos de las y los puertorriqueños que ahora viven en exilio en el estado de Florida.
Y es que se avecinan las elecciones de medio término en los Estados Unidos que eligen a los miembros del senado y a la cámara de representantes. Ambas cámaras, actualmente las domina el Partido de Biden, el Partido Demócrata. Pero no con am-

plia mayoría, y se espera que en estas elecciones los republicanos recuperen asientos y ganen los escaños necesarios para ser la mayoría en ambas cámaras. En un país que se ha dividido tanto, esto equivale a la casi imposibilidad de avanzar la agenda demócrata. Pero tengamos claro que la agenda demócrata es también una agenda guerrerista.
También fueron los Demócratas, bajo Obama, quienes aprobaron para Puerto Rico, la Ley Promesa que impuso la Junta de Control Fiscal que hasta este día no ha hecho sino destruir el país, ahondando la pobreza por la cual miles de personas se han ido a la Florida buscando trabajo y servicios de salud.



Así que gritamos, junto a las y los manifestantes que la misma policía de Puerto Rico les impidió el paso para protestar la visita del presidente estadounidense: ¡Fuera Biden, abajo la colonia! 🇵🇷

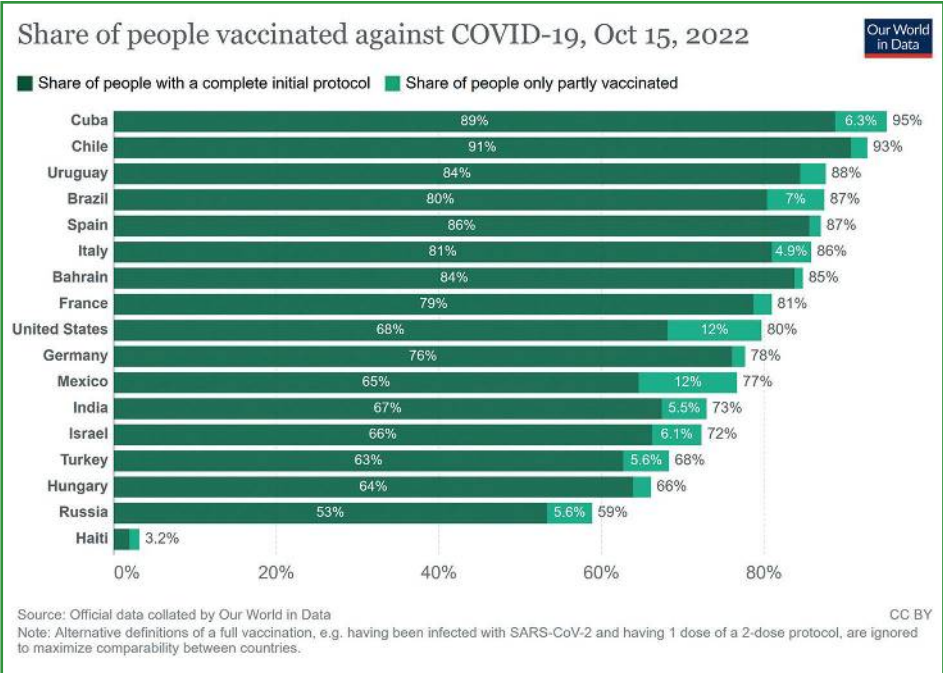


Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.

On November 3 at the UN: The people say yes, will Biden say no?

By Cheryl LaBash

On Nov. 3, the United Nations General Assembly will vote YES for ending the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba. Since the resolution was first introduced in 1992, 30 years ago, the global community of 193 countries has rejected the U.S. asphyxiation, maximum-pressure regime-change economic war waged against Cuba, its government, and its 11 million people.
Not surprisingly, the U.S. is expected to once again vote “no” along with apartheid-state Israel. Only once, in 2016 during President Obama’s last term, did the U.S. abstain, making the total 191 in favor of and none opposed to ending the blockade of Cuba. Cheers rang out, breaking the UN’s decorum.
The U.S. insists on maintaining the unilateral economic war against its much smaller island neighbor to quash its rebelliousness by starving the Cuban people through “adroit and inconspicuous” methods as planned in the April 6, 1960, State Department Mallory-Rubottom memo. However, much has changed in the 30 years since 1992.
First, Senator Marco Rubio, representing a small pro-blockade coterie in Congress, can no longer claim he speaks for Cuban Americans. Thirty years ago, Miami was a dangerous



place for supporters of the Cuban Revolution and a center of struggle over Cuban parental rights for six-year-old Elian Gonzalez. In 1998 Miami was the site of the arrest of the Cuban 5 heroes, with screaming headlines falsely maligning them as Cuban spies.
For the past two years, however, on the last Sunday of every month, a movement led by Cuban Americans calls for the U.S. blockade to end and instead build bridges of love, “Puentes de Amor.” The car and bike caravans rally and drive through Miami streets, even down Calle Ocho, the iconic center of Cuban Miami. Into the third year, it continues. These activities are replicated throughout the Cuban diaspora and in cities across the U.S. and Canada.
Highlighting this development, Cuban Americans plan to lead a rally and march to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City on October 29, the Saturday before the upcoming debate on Nov. 2 and vote on Nov. 3. The demands of the march are: End the blockade, remove Cuba from the State Department’s arbitrary list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism,” and end all U.S. anti-Cuba eco-

nomie and travel sanctions.
Second, the Puentes de Amor movement sparked “last Sunday” ongoing, coordinated solidarity activities in cities across the U.S., Canada and around the world. In addition to Miami, Bloomington, Indiana; Milwaukee; Minneapolis; Chicago; Hartford, Connecticut; Boston; Seattle; Portland, Oregon.; Albany and New York City; Los Angeles; Albuquerque; Phoenix and more set aside that weekend for activities calling for the U.S. blockade to end.
The people of the U.S. vote YES!
Yet when Biden’s administration votes against Cuba’s resolution on Nov. 3, the United States government will falsely claim to represent the people of the U.S. This is no longer true. More than 41 million U.S. residents voted YES to end the blockade through resolutions from elected city councils, county commissions, state legislatures, school boards and labor organizations.
A new round of resolutions will specifically call for the State Depart-

ment and president to remove Cuba from the spurious List of State Sponsors of Terrorism. Cuba has been the target, not the sponsor, of terrorism organized in and by the United States since its 1959 revolution. The reality is that Cuba sponsors international literacy and health care, as shown from Haiti fighting cholera to Liberia fighting Ebola, to COVID-19 Henry Reeve Brigades in more than 50 countries. In the words of Cuba’s national hero, Jose Marti, Cuba acts with all for the good of all.
Support for revolutionary Cuba’s road, independent of the U.S. “backyard” or the Monroe Doctrine claiming all of the Americas for the settler-colonial U.S., is shown in the generosity of contributors in the U.S. When Cuba developed its own effective vaccines despite the U.S. measures blocking raw materials and syringes, hundreds of thousands of dollars were collected to send six million syringes. Every dollar and every syringe was a U.S. vote for ending the U.S. blockade. Cuba’s accomplishment is undeniable and measurable.
Look at the accompanying table of vaccination rates. Compare Cuba with Haiti.
As directed in the 1960 Mallory-Rubottom State Department memo, the U.S. war on Cuba is “adroit and inconspicuous.” In the era of fake news, manipulation of images and social media bots, the U.S. war machine employs powerful media tools to obscure the truth about many developments, including Cuba. Going to Cuba, seeing and experiencing it personally, and meeting Cuban people is an important way to learn. But for those of us who have traveled to Cuba and live in the United States, it is our responsibility to act and not stop until the U.S. government fully normalizes respectful relations with Cuba. 🇵🇷

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